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(b) if so, the number thus affected and the reasons for the reduction?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : May I know whether it is not a fact that two appeals from the Agriculture Demonstration maistries of the Agriculture department of the former Pudukkottai State are pending with the Government with regard to such matters?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : So far as the information I have with me goes, there is one case of a permanent Agricultural maistri who was officiating as a clerk in the former Pudukkottai State and after merger his pay was fixed at a lower scale and not at the higher scale of pay which he was drawing as a clerk. The Government subsequently found that it was a mistake. On the representation of the subordinate, the Government ordered the refixation of the pay of this officer from 1st January 1949 giving the benefits of increments and also arrears of pay.

Construction of a dam across the Vellar near Sundarapatty village

* 365 Q.—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the reasons for dropping the proposal to construct a dam across the Vellar near Sundarapatty village in Tirumayam taluk, Pudukkottai Division, Tiruchirappalli district;

(b) whether it is a fact that an estimate was ordered to be prepared; and

(c) if so, the amount of the estimate?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : (a) The cost of construction of a masonry dam was prohibitive and not commensurate with the benefits expected.

The ryots were themselves constructing a temporary mud dam every year at a small cost.

(b) Yes.

(c) About Rs. 59,000 for works or Rs. 73,000 inclusive of direct and indirect charges.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : When the ayacutdars are willing to contribute towards the cost of construction of the scheme on 50–50 basis, may I know what is the difficulty the Government are experiencing in accepting it? This scheme will have to be taken up particularly because no major work of public importance has been undertaken in Pudukkottai State after its merger with this State and it is very necessary to woo the people sentimentally as regards merger of the State even though it has become a matter of *fait accompli*.

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THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : I have no information on the point that the ayacutdars are willing to contribute on a 50–50 basis. If we construct a dam at a cost of Rs. 73,000, the interest on capital outlay would come to about Rs. 3,000 annually. The Collector has suggested the putting up of a mud dam at a cost not exceeding a thousand rupees, provided the ayacutdars are willing to contribute a portion of the cost. For that there was no response. If the suggestion of the Collector is agreed to, the Government can spend up to a thousand rupees. The construction of a permanent masonry structure will involve disproportionately huge cost.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Is the Hon. Minister aware that this temporary construction is not of such a type as to give a permanent storage and is he also aware of the fact that this temporary construction is liable to break at every flood defeating the purpose of the dam and preventing the required storage?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : Spending every year one thousand rupees is cheaper than spending a huge amount on a permanent structure involving an amount of interest of Rs. 3,000 on the capital outlay annually. The cost of construction of a permanent structure is not commensurate with the results obtained.

Milo meters in auto rickshaws

* 366 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM (on behalf of Sri N. K. Palanisamy) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to rectify the defects in the meters installed in auto-rickshaws in the City of Madras?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : Taxi meters are not fitted to auto-rickshaws, since such meters small enough to be fitted to them are not at present available in the market. Only milo meters are fitted to auto-rickshaws. Local firms have been requested to devise a suitable meter for auto-rickshaws but so far they have not been able to do so.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : At the present moment, the milo meters fixed to the auto-rickshaws are very small and more often they are covered with so much dust that the passengers travelling in the auto-rickshaws are not able to note down the meter readings. They have to depend on what the drivers of the auto-rickshaws say. Will the Government, therefore, instruct the firms to construct at least bigger meters and also instruct the Police officials to have them fixed near the seat of the passenger?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : The Government have requested certain local firms to devise meters which could be fitted to the auto-rickshaws. We cannot fit big taxi-meters to auto-rickshaws. The Associated Traders, Madras, have addressed